chg. Box 13,

PAID

Rev. Amos A. Phelps
New-York
N.Y.

"I love to preach & the habits of life incident to preaching are more congenial than those incident to my present employment." Permit me to ask if I may infer from this sentence that you ~~now~~ now feel you ought to give more attention to preaching the gospel & the immediate conversion of sinners than to any other object?

I feel for one, that while I & my fellow christians in this city have been engaged in pleading the cause of the oppressed & down trodden slave, infidelity & iniquity have made awful strides. Many of our young men have embraced errors which are soul destroying. We are unwilling to give up a single anti-slavery principle, yet we think for the present more effort must be made for the immediate conversion of sinner or the heritage of God in this city will be laid waste.

Please write on what sabbath you will come & supply our desk in person.

Yours &c

Samuel B. Simonds

number being without pastors we do not think it advisable to form new churches until these are supplied. The way in which meeting houses are builded is, by individuals forming corporations. These stock holders leese the house to the church for sixe per cent interest on the cost. The way the church pay the interest, ministers salary, & other expences, is by renting the pews. These are let by the quater. From this source (as it respects our society) we have been able to meet all our expences, & to purchase several shares in the house. The compensation which we paid Mr. Twining annually, was eight hundred dolls. We do not expect hereafter to pay less than a thousand.

We have connected with the church & society a Sabbath School, which numbers from 300 to 400 members. A large proportion of them are adults. We have also an infant class numbering from 60 to 70. The school & congregation are not as large as they would be if we had a settled minister. Our house will seat about one thousand persons.

Thus in an disjointed manner I have gine an epitomised answer to your enquiries. From these remarks you may infer something of the state of things in this city: but I think a visit would do far better.

In your letter is the following remark,

YALE
7

Lowell April 25. 1837.

Lowell

S. B. Simonds.

PHELPS MSS.

Beloved Brother,

yours of 14th inst was received. I will try to give an answer to your enquiries. We have three Congregationalist, two Baptists, two Methodists, one Free-Will-Baptists, one Unitarian, two Universalists, one Catholic, one Episcopalian churches. As it respects members I am unable to give the definate number. We have upon the records of the Second Cong. church about 400. Probably one third of this number are out of the city. There may be from 2000 to 3000 persons belonging to all the evangelical churches in this city. All the churches are supplied with pastors, except the First-Baptist, Second, & Third Congregational. There is perfect harmony among all the ministers & churches as far as I have any acquaintance. All appear to feel that particular denominational views & feelings, should be held in subordination to the general & united strength against wickedness. The pastors & members of the evangelical churches are unitedly engaged in the promotion of the Tract, Sabbath School, & Moral Reform Associations. As it respects the field for new churches, we need, & I think the population is sufficient to sustain two more Orthodox Cong. churches. But two of the present